

Approved: 2/13/96
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, CONGRESSIONAL & LEGISLATIVE
APPORTIONMENT AND GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janice Hardenburger at 1:40 p.m. on February 6, 1996 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Bonnie Fritts, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brad Bryant, Office of Secretary of State
Jan Kruh, Vice President, American Association of Retired
Persons

Others attending: See attached list

Sub HB 2079 **relating to elections** (National Voter Registration Act)

Senator Hardenburger opened hearings on the bill.

Brad Bryant appeared before the committee to explain the purpose of this bill. He submitted extensive changes for the committee to consider (Attachment 1). It was suggested that a clean Senate Bill be drafted due to the massive amount of proposed amendments. The committee concluded that the bill will pass more quickly as a House Bill rather than a Senate Bill. Upon drawing this conclusion, Senator Hardenburger requested that Brad Bryant give in depth explanation of the proposed changes. The office of Secretary of State believes this to be the simplest and least expensive way to implement this bill. Discussion followed. The revisor was asked to draft a Senate Substitute bill, by Thursday, Feb. 8, using the changes outlined in the above mentioned attachment.

Jan Kruh, testified as a proponent of the bill and provided written testimony (Attachment 2) asking the committee implement the bill and to ensure full compliance. Senator Ranson stated that some of the problems listed as concerns probably do not exist.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 1996.

SENATE ELECTIONS, CONGRESSIONAL &
LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT AND
GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE GUEST
LIST

DATE: 2/16/96

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jan Kruh	AARP-SLC
Barbara Wothke	League of Women Voters
Wanda McFarland	AFL
John W. Smith	KDOR DMV
Sheila Walker	KDOR
Betty McBride	KDOR
Anne Kimmel	AARP
John Shoemaker	Senate President's Office
Brad Bryant	Sec. of state
Jenny Wirtz	Sec. of State
Chuck Knapp	" "
Connie Stewart	MS AFL-CIO
Edward Rome	League of Women Voters/KS
Kandy Shott	SRS
Jenny Clawson	Sen. Wisdom

Ron Thornburgh
Secretary of State



2nd Floor, State Capitol
300 S.W. 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(913) 296-2236

STATE OF KANSAS

Senate Committee on Elections, Congressional and Legislative Apportionment and Governmental Standards

Testimony on Substitute HB 2079

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Elections and Legislative Matters

February 6, 1996

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Substitute for House Bill 2079. This bill is intended to implement the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) in Kansas and put our state into full compliance with all the requirements of the NVRA. Although neither Secretary of State Thornburgh nor his predecessor, former Secretary of State Bill Graves, supported passage of the NVRA by the Congress, we believe Kansas must comply because it is a federal law.

In testimony before this committee on January 18 our office pointed out that we are already implementing the NVRA for federal elections due to a court order arising from a lawsuit filed last August. The resulting dual system of registration and voting would be eliminated if state laws are amended to apply the NVRA's provisions to all elections in Kansas.

We have said that the best way to implement the NVRA is to seek the cleanest, simplest and least intrusive approach. To that end, the Secretary of State drafted and proposed 1995 HB 2079. We still believe the original HB 2079 is the most limited approach to implementation of the NVRA--it does not completely rewrite election law, nor does it add new laws unless required by the NVRA.

We propose that this committee pass a substitute for the Substitute for HB 2079. We have provided with our testimony a list of twenty-five sections for inclusion in the new bill. The new bill would be crafted using sections from the original 1995 HB 2079 and the Substitute for HB 2079, which is the bill that is before this committee.

Corporations (913) 296-4564
FAX (913) 296-4570

Elections (913) 296-4561
Administration (913) 296-2236
FAX (913) 291-3051

UCC (913) 296-3650
FAX (913) 296-3659

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-6-96
ATTACHMENT 1

Included in the list of sections is a series of additional changes we recommend in the language of the new bill. These are recommended changes we have become aware of since the bill was originally drafted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Office of the Secretary of State

Proposed Senate Substitute for Substitute HB 2079

February 6, 1996

This is a list of sections we propose including in a new Senate Substitute for the House Substitute for House Bill 2079. Some sections are taken from the House Substitute bill currently before the committee; some are taken from the original HB 2079 as proposed last year by the Secretary of State. Listed under certain sections are proposed amendments to the sections.

<u>Proposed Senate Substitute Bill</u>	<u>Origin of Section</u>
Section 1	HB 2079 Section 1
Section 2	HB 2079 Section 2
Section 3	HB 2079 New Section 3
Section 4	House Substitute Bill Section 3
Section 5	House Substitute Bill Section 4
Section 6	House Substitute Bill Section 5
Also: Delete Subsection (d) in Substitute Bill, p. 6	
Section 7	HB 2079 Section 7
Also: (1) Restore (b)(6) and (8) in HB 2079 Sec. 7 (2) Insert lines 12 & 13 of House Substitute Bill Sec. 6(a) on p. 7 into HB 2079 Sec. 7(a), line 23 on p. 4.	
Section 8	House Substitute Bill Section 7
Section 9	House Substitute Bill Section 8
Also: In House Substitute Bill Sec. 8(g), adopt language from 1995 SB 232 by inserting "held in even-numbered years" on p. 12, line 2 after the word "election".	
Section 10	House Substitute Bill Section 9
Section 11	House Substitute Bill Section 10

Proposed Senate Substitute Bill

Origin of Section

Section 12

HB 2079 Section 12

Also: (1) In HB 2079 Sec. 12, p. 10, line 7, change (d) to (e).
(2) In HB 2079 Sec. 12, p. 11, line 4, insert "be sent by forwardable mail and shall" after the word "shall".

Section 13

House Substitute Bill New
Section 12

Section 14

HB 2079 Section 14

Also: (1) In HB 2079 Sec. 14, change "25-2352" to "25-2351".
(2) Add at the beginning of subsection (d): "The voter registration portion of".

Section 15

House Substitute Bill New
Section 14

Section 16

House Substitute Bill Section 15

Section 17

HB 2079 Section 17

Section 18

House Substitute Bill Section 17

Section 19

House Substitute Bill Section 18

Section 20

House Substitute Bill Section 19

Section 21

House Substitute Bill New
Section 21

Section 22

House Substitute Bill Section 22

Section 23

House Substitute Bill New
Section 23

Section 24

House Substitute Bill Section 28

Also: (1) In House Substitute Bill Sec. 28, change "25-2352" to "25-2351".
(2) Add K.S.A. 25-2316d to the list of repealed statutes.

Section 25

HB 2079 Section 26

American Association of Retired Persons
Statement on Substitute for HB 2079
to
Senate Elections, Congressional & Legislative Apportionment
and Governmental Standards

by
Jan Kruh
Kansas AARP State Legislative Committee

February 6, 1996

I am Jan Kruh, vice-chair of the Kansas AARP State Legislative Committee.

I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to comment on the Substitute for House Bill 2079, relating to elections, specifically the National Voter Registration Act.

First, I wish to commend the Committee for the effort you have given in the 1995 and '96 Legislative Sessions to adopt the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act into the Kansas statutes.

Most basic of all political rights is the right to vote. Yet registration difficulties, physical barriers, and other problems have often blocked the frail elderly, persons with disabilities, and minorities from voting.

AARP supports the full enforcement of the National Voter Registration Act, which was enacted in 1993 to reduce obstacles to voter registration. It requires states to allow voter registration when applying for a driver's license or other type of permit, and to provide registration forms at a variety of state offices, as well as through the mail.

As of today, Kansas is one of only 11 states that has not fully implemented the National Voter Registration Act. An important index of this new law's success is that over 5 million new voters have been registered across the nation in the past year.

Kansas AARP urges this committee to ensure that full compliance with the National Voter Registration Act is included in our state legislation and that it will be enforced for all elections at the local, state and federal levels.

Thank you.

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-6-96
ATTACHMENT 2